

Ascension Worship Service

“God has ascended on high to bring gifts to us.”

Welcome to our Ascension Worship! Christ our King has come. He fought the fight for us, won the victory for us, rules our hearts now, and will bring us to heaven. The Ascension says all of this. Through God’s Word and song, we build on the blessing of our Lord’s Ascension. Our King assures us of His help and direction.

Today’s Hymns: #173, #250, #171 (stanzas 1-4), #171 (stanzas 5-6)

Opening Hymn #173: “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”

Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. (spoken)

Confession and Absolution:

P: Today’s worship focuses on our ascended Lord who rules all things for our benefit and the benefit of his church. He most importantly rules our hearts by his Word. We are to reflect his love and truth in our lives of service to God and to others. But we know all too well that we have failed to live as God requires. As we confess our sins, please ponder especially on our failures to reflect God’s love and compassion to other people. Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and bring our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for reflection.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. (spoken)

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Hymn #250: “From All that Dwell Below the Skies”

From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator’s praise arise.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer’s name be sung Through every land by every tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are your mercies Lord; Eternal is your glorious Word.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God’s right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: Acts 1:1-11 - see insert

Psalm of the Day #47 (pg 85) - Women sing first part, Men sing second part

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:16-23 - see insert

Ascension Confession of Faith - sung to the tune of Hymn #169 - see insert

Today’s Message: (based on Ephesians 1:16-23)

“He’s at God’s Right Hand - over all - for you!”

Hymn #171: “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” (stanzas 1-4)

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Lord’s Prayer (traditional)

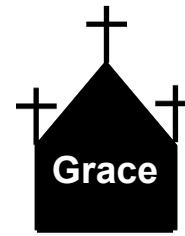
Blessing

Closing Hymn #171: “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” (stanzas 5 & 6)

Thank you to our pianist Amibeth Olderman.



**ALL are invited to join us for an
Ice Cream Social
immediately following worship!**



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Worship Services Sundays 8:00 & 10:45am, Mondays 6:30pm

Welcome to our Guests! We hope you will find our welcome warm and God's message eternally inspiring. Christ lived and died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again! Please give us a record of your visit and come again.



"MLHS Sunday"

This coming Sunday the MLHS Choir will be joining us at both services to enhance our worship experience with special music. What a blessing to celebrate our partnership in Christian Education!

We will have a special social hour between services (with refreshments and food!). Pastor Norval Koch, Principal at MLHS will share information about what is happening at MLHS.

Please join us!



**Thursday, May 10, 2018
Ascension Day Worship 6:30 pm**

Our Ascension Bible Readings

First Lesson: Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:16-23

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Today's Message:

"He's at God's Right Hand - over all - for you!"

Ascension Confession of Faith - Sung to melody of Hymn #169

***I believe in God the Father, Maker of the Heav'n and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, our Savior, God's own Son of human birth.
Virgin born, the Lord incarnate, whom the Spirit did conceive;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate; He's the God whom I believe.***



***Crucified, was dead and buried, down to hell in victory;
From the dead He rose the third day; up to heav'n triumphantly.
There at God's right hand He's ruling. By His will the world is led.
He will come to judge the nations, both the living and the dead.***

***I believe in God the Spirit, in His Church, His chosen band.
They are joined in sweet communion, holy in His sight they stand.
I believe in sins forgiven; I believe I'll rise again;
I believe in life eternal. Amen! Amen! A---men!***

*In my
Father's
House
are many
mansions;
if it were not so, I
would have told you.
I go to prepare
a place for you.*